

Message Text

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ORIGIN EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 DODE-00 CIAE-00 PM-04 INR-07 L-03 ACDA-10

NSAE-00 PA-02 SS-15 PRS-01 SP-02 TRSE-00 SAJ-01

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C:LFUERTH (INFORMED)

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O P 290121Z SEP 76 ZFF5

FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO ALL NATO CAPITALS IMMEDIATE

INFO USDEL SECRETARY PRIORITY

USNMR PRIORITY

USCINCEUR PRIORITY

USAREUR PRIORITY

XMT AMEMBASSY REYKJAVIK

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HOLD FOR OPENING OF BUSINESS

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: MPOL, NATO

SUBJECT: HOUSE ARMED SERVICES COMMITTEE RESOLUTION
ON TANK HARMONIZATION PROGRAM

1. THE HOUSE ARMED SERVICES COMMITTEE HAS BEEN REVIEWING
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THE US-FRG TANK HARMONIZATION PROGRAM FOR THE PAST MONTH.

TODAY THE COMMITTEE CONCLUDED ITS HEARINGS AND APPROVED
A RESOLUTION. TEXT OF RESOLUTION FOLLOWS:

BEGIN TEXT.

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WHEREAS THE HOUSE COMMITTEE ON ARMED SERVICES HAS REVIEWED
THE FINDINGS AND RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE PANEL ON THE XM-1;
AND

WHEREAS THE SECRETARY OF DEFENSE HAS STATED ON REPEATED
OCCASIONS THAT IT IS HIS DESIRE TO COOPERATE WITH, AND
TO SEEK THE SUPPORT OF THE CONGRESS WITH REGARD TO THE
XM-1 PROGRAM, AND THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE ADDENDUM TO
THE MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING (MOU) WITH THE FRG;

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT THE COMMITTEE INFORM THE
SECRETARY OF DEFENSE:

(1) THAT, WHILE IT FULLY SUPPORTS THE UNDERLYING GOAL
OF STANDARDIZATION WHICH PROMPTED THE ADDENDUM TO THE
MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING WITH THE FEDERAL REPUBLIC OF
GERMANY (FRG), THE COMMITTEE REGARDS THE DECISION-MAKING
TIME-TABLE PRESCRIBED IN THAT ADDENDUM AS PREMATURE AND
POTENTIALLY IN CONFLICT WITH THE OVERRIDING OBJECTIVE
OF THE XM-1 PROGRAM WHICH IS TO FIELD THE MOST COST-
EFFECTIVE MAIN BATTLE TANK AT THE EARLIEST POSSIBLE DATE,
AND;

(2) THAT IT IS THE POSITION OF THE COMMITTEE THAT THAT
OVERRIDING OBJECTIVE OF THE XM-1 PROGRAM MUST TAKE
PRECEDENCE OVER SECONDARY OBJECTIVES SUCH AS STANDARD-
IZATION OR INTERCHANGEABILITY OF COMPONENTS.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT THE COMMITTEE INFORM THE
SECRETARY OF DEFENSE THAT THE CONGRESSIONAL SUPPORT HE
SEEKS FOR THE XM-1 PROGRAM CAN BEST BE ASSURED BY HIS
RESPONSIVENESS TO THE FOLLOWING GUIDELINES:

(1) THE XM-1 PROGRAM SHOULD PROCEED INTO FULL SCALE
ENGINEERING DEVELOPMENT WITH A SINGLE CONTRACTOR AS
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QUICKLY AS POSSIBLE, BUT IN NO EVENT LATER THAN
NOVEMBER 17, 1976;

(2) IN MAKING THE SELECTION BETWEEN ALTERNATIVE PROPOSALS,
THE SOURCE SELECTION AUTHORITY SHOULD SELECT THAT PROPOSAL
WHICH OFFERS THE BEST POSSIBILITY OF ACHIEVING THE PRIMARY
OBJECTIVE OF THE XM-1 PROGRAM, EVEN IF THAT SELECTION IS
IN CONFLICT WITH THE TERMS OF THE ADDENDUM TO THE

MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING WITH THE FRG;

(3) IF ONE OF THE STANDARDIZATION PROPOSALS IS SELECTED AS BEST MEETING THE PRIMARY PROGRAM OBJECTIVE, FULL SCALE ENGINEERING DEVELOPMENT SHOULD SERVE AS A BASIS FOR COMPARATIVE TESTING OF THE BASIC XM-1 TURRET AND THE DUAL-CAPABLE TURRET. THE FINAL DECISION AS TO WHICH TURRET SHOULD BE INCORPORATED IN THE INITIAL PRODUCTION OF THE XM-1 SHOULD BE BASED SOLELY ON THE ACTUAL RESULTS OF TESTING DURING FULL SCALE ENGINEERING DEVELOPMENT;

(4) THE COMMITMENT TO AGREE WITH THE FRG ON A SPECIAL 120 MM GUN CONFIGURATION BY JANUARY 15, 1976, WAS NOT JUSTIFIED TO THE COMMITTEE ON THE BASIS OF KNOWN MILITARY REQUIREMENTS. THEREFORE, THE COMMITTEE CANNOT SUPPORT OR FUND ANY SUCH COMMITMENT UNTIL:

(A) ALTERNATIVE 120 MM GUN SYSTEMS HAVE BEEN COMPREHENSIVELY TESTED AND EVALUATED BY THE ARMY, AND;

(B) ONE OF THOSE ALTERNATIVE 120 MM GUN SYSTEMS HAS CLEARLY DEMONSTRATED SUPERIOR COMBAT EFFECTIVENESS OVER THE PRESENT 105 MM GUN AND ITS FUTURE IMPROVED AMMUNITION;

(5) THE TESTING AND EVALUATION OF ALTERNATIVE 120 MM GUN SYSTEMS SHOULD BE CONDUCTED AS A PARALLEL PROGRAM, SEPARATE AND APART FROM THE FUNDING OF THE XM-1 PROGRAM; AND SHOULD COMMENCE ONLY AFTER CONGRESSIONAL APPROVAL OF A REPROGRAMMING ACTION, OR THROUGH THE NORMAL AUTHORIZATION AND APPROPRIATION PROCESS;

(6) THE COMMITTEE BELIEVES THAT THE ARMY CAN CHOOSE
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NOW, ON THE BASIS OF HARD TEST DATA, BETWEEN THE DIESEL AND TURBINE ENGINE, AND THAT IT SHOULD DO SO WITHOUT REGARD TO WHICH ENGINE IS COMPATIBLE WITH THE ADDENDUM TO THE MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING;

(7) THE COMMITTEE BELIEVES THAT THE SOURCE SELECTION PROCESS SHOULD BE RESTRUCTURED TO PROVIDE INDEPENDENT INPUT FROM THE USER ELEMENTS OF THE ARMY. AS A MINIMUM, THIS SHOULD INVOLVE FULL ACCESS TO ACTUAL TEST REPORTS BY THE COMMANDS REPRESENTED ON THE ASARC TO ASSURE THAT THE SOURCE SELECTION AUTHORITY HAS THE BENEFIT OF INDEPENDENT SYSTEMS EVALUATIONS.
END TEXT.

2. IF ASKED ABOUT THIS RESOLUTION ADDRESSEES SHOULD

REPLY THAT DOD IS REVIEWING THE LANGUAGE AND EVALUATING ITS IMPACT ON THE XM-1 TANK PROGRAM AND THE US-FRG TANK HARMONIZATION AGREEMENT. IT MAY BE NOTED THAT THE SENSE OF COMMITTEE RESOLUTION WAS PASSED ONLY BY THE HOUSE ARMED SERVICES COMMITTEE AND NOT BY ANY OTHER BODIES IN THE CONGRESS.

3. FOR BONN: WE ARE FORWARDING SECDEF LETTER TO LEBER SEPTTEL.

ROBINSON

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Margaret P. Grafeld
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